

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1971

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require States to give notice and an opportunity for review prior to removing individuals from the official list of eligible voters in elections for Federal office by reason of criminal conviction, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2001

Mrs. MEEK of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require States to give notice and an opportunity for review prior to removing individuals from the official list of eligible voters in elections for Federal office by reason of criminal conviction, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Voting Rights Protec-
5 tion Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. REQUIRING STATES TO GIVE NOTICE AND OPPOR-**
 2 **TUNITY FOR REVIEW PRIOR TO REMOVING**
 3 **INDIVIDUALS FROM VOTING ROLLS BY REA-**
 4 **SON OF CRIMINAL CONVICTION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Voter Registration
 6 Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1973gg et seq.) is amended by
 7 inserting after section 8 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 8A. NOTICE AND REVIEW REQUIREMENTS FOR RE-**
 9 **MOVAL OF INDIVIDUALS FROM VOTING**
 10 **ROLLS FOR CRIMINAL CONVICTION.**

11 “(a) NOTICE OF REMOVAL.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A State may not remove a
 13 registrant from the official list of eligible voters for
 14 elections for Federal office by reason of criminal
 15 conviction unless the State provides the registrant
 16 with a notice of removal containing the information
 17 required under paragraph (2)—

18 “(A) not later than 60 days before the
 19 date of the first election for Federal office
 20 which occurs after the date on which the reg-
 21 istrant is convicted; or

22 “(B) if the first election for Federal office
 23 occurs fewer than 60 days after the date on
 24 which the registrant is convicted, not later than
 25 60 days before the date of the second such elec-

1 tion which occurs after the registrant is con-
2 victed.

3 “(2) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—The notice of re-
4 moval required under this subsection shall include
5 the following:

6 “(A) A statement that the State intends to
7 remove the registrant from the official list of el-
8 igible voters for elections for Federal office.

9 “(B) A description of the reasons for re-
10 moval, including sufficient identifying informa-
11 tion on the criminal conviction alleged to be the
12 basis for removal to enable the registrant to de-
13 termine whether the registrant was convicted of
14 the offense cited in the notice.

15 “(C) A statement that the registrant may
16 obtain a review of the removal from an appro-
17 priate election official of the State in accord-
18 ance with subsection (b).

19 “(b) REVIEW.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A registrant who receives a
21 notice of removal under subsection (a) may submit
22 a written request to an appropriate election official
23 of the State to withdraw the notice and retain the
24 registrant on the official list of eligible voters, and
25 may include in the request such information and evi-

1 dence as the registrant considers appropriate to
2 show that the registrant was not convicted of the
3 criminal offense cited in the notice or is otherwise
4 not subject to removal from the list under State law.

5 “(2) RESPONSE BY STATE.—If a registrant
6 submits a written request under paragraph (1), the
7 State shall review the information and evidence in-
8 cluded and accept or reject the request not later
9 than 10 days after receipt, and shall notify the reg-
10 istrant in writing of its decision.

11 “(3) STAY OF REMOVAL IF REQUEST SUB-
12 MITTED WITHIN 30 DAYS.—If a registrant submits a
13 written request under paragraph (1) within the 30-
14 day period which begins on the date the registrant
15 receives the notice of removal under subsection (a),
16 the State may not remove the registrant from the of-
17 ficial list of eligible voters until it has completed its
18 review of the request under this subsection and noti-
19 fied the registrant of its decision. Nothing in this
20 paragraph may be construed to permit a State to
21 refuse to consider a written request submitted under
22 paragraph (1) by a registrant after the 30-day pe-
23 riod referred to in the previous sentence, or to limit
24 any other rights provided to the registrant under the
25 laws of the State to challenge the proposed removal

1 of the registrant from the official list of eligible vot-
2 ers.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(a)(3)(B)
4 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1973gg–6(a)(3)(B)) is amended
5 by inserting after “criminal conviction” the following:
6 “(subject to the requirements of section 8A)”.

7 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 The amendments made by this Act shall apply with
9 respect to elections occurring after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act.

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